requirement of land for agriculture purposes, it is difficult to estimate the loss of forest area in next 10 years.

(c) Loss of forest area and reduction in forest quality does have adverse impact on ecology and wildlife

Illegal chopping of barks

1270. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that forest mafia have chopped the barks of around 2,000 pine trees in the Deber Ghat–Garari forest belt of Renuka area for illegal tapping of resin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the mafia brutally chopped the bark of pine forest and put heavy amount of acid on the wounds of trees to get more resin out of it causing irreparable damage to the trees which would prove to be the biggest environmental hazard in the area; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to check this illegal chopping of bark of pine trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) As per the report received from State Forest Department, barks of 262 pine trees was found to be illicitly chopped in the Reserved Forests of Garari. In this regard a damage report No.32 dated 7.4.2007 was issued and Rs. 26,820.00 have been recovered from the defaulter. No damage to pine trees due to use of acid has been reported.

(d) The action taken by Government to check illegal chopping of bark of pine trees are as under:

- Regular patrolling & inspection of forest areas by the field staff and officials.
- The offenders are punished as per the provisions of existing laws/rules.
- Awareness amongst the local people, particularly the workers engaged in resin tapping to adopt right practices for resin tapping.

Rejuvenation of the River Yamuna

1271. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to rejuvenate the Yamuna River by building two mega reservoirs to trap rain water for perennial water flow;

(b) if so, the agencies which are involved therein;

(c) the estimated cost of building reservoirs, sewage treatment plants and other inputs; and